

LONG-TERM LEAN ENGAGEMENT INCREASES EFFICIENCY & SUPPORTS AUTOMATION

ABOUT ECLECTIC PRODUCTS, INC. Eclectic Products, Inc. (EPI) manufactures adhesives, epoxies, and wood fillers. EPI was founded in 1972 and the 107,800 square foot manufacturing and distribution facility is located in Pineville, Louisiana. Products such as Amazing GOOP adhesives, epoxies and Nail Hole Filler, and Seal-All have been manufactured in this facility.

THE CHALLENGE. EPI was considering an expansion to its Pineville manufacturing facility, but before investing in capital, EPI decided to first lean out their operation and arm employees with lean manufacturing training and tools. They contacted MEPOL, part of the MEP National Network™, for assistance.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. One of MEPOL's consultants, Agile Performance, provided six classes of Lean 101 training to 90 EPI employees. Over the course of five days, employees participated in hands-on training exercises and were taught principles of Lean manufacturing and how to apply these principles in each workplace environment. Each cross-functional training class spent time capturing ideas for specific process improvement opportunities within EPI.

As a result of MEPOL's assistance, EPI was able to hire ten new employees and increase sales through a new product line and new products. EPI was also able to purchase a robotics work cell and a packaging machine. The new products inspired a shift from a batch process to an extruding process. Subsequently, EPI completed Value Stream Mapping and Process Flow projects. EPI plans to complete Lean Project Framing and Scoping Training in the second quarter of 2018 to round out their Lean Transformation process.

"The results from this transformation have led to many improvements within our company including a change in starting pay, reduced turnover, improved quality, and reduced scrap."

-Ken Barton, VP of Industrial Sales & Marketing

RESULTS



\$2,350,000 in increased/retained sales



\$300,000 in cost savings



Added **10** jobs



\$2,000,000 in new investments

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